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AUTHOR	Brazil, Robert D.
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ABSTRACT

This book explains how the Chicago Public Schools use accountability and probation to promote school improvement. When schools do not measure up, they are placed on probation. The probation is intended to help schools find and carry out solutions to the problems they have been unable to solve on their own. The book focuses on probation as it has been applied in two high schools and one elementary school. Chapter 1, "The Beginning," explains that if teachers continue to do the same things, it is unlikely that student performance will improve. This chapter offers the ABCs of basic school administration. Chapter 2, "Organizing for Action," describes how the three schools run. Chapter 3, "School Plans for Improving the Schools," presents the three schools' preliminary reports on where they thought they were headed and their final reports. Chapter 4, "Interral Organization, Progress and Planning," presents information from the two high schools. Chapter 5, "The Department of Accountability Chicago Public Schools," describes the role and work of the Department of Accountability. Chapter 6, "Enter the Dragon," presents news reports on progress and decisions made by the Chicago Board of Education. A conclusion section discusses the first semester (1997). (SM)

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